

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant – Fort Bidwell Indian Community (#1732-RFFCP).

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities in Modoc County.

Project Location - City: No city, general outreach and planning activities only.

Project Location - County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will amend and augment grant agreement #1732 (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant – Fort Bidwell Indian Community with the Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California (Grantee) to allow additional grant funds to be used for project planning and capacity building. The Grantee will work to build the Tribe's internal capacity to generate critical wildfire prevention plans, including identifying and prioritizing areas most at risk from wildfire using data-informed assessments, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of high priority areas, permitting, and development of planning documents for environmental compliance in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. No potential future activities have been approved, adopted, or funded and do not have a legally binding effect on future activities. This amendment does not bind any party to a definite course of action prior to CEQA compliance for any future implementation project. The amendment involves no ground or resource disturbance.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California,
Germain Ruvalcaba, Chairman,
130 Me Thee Uh Rd., Fort Bidwell, CA 96112,
(301) 403-9252.

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Common Sense Exemption – CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and Feasibility and Planning Studies under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262.

Reasons why project is exempt:

These activities are exempt under the commonsense exemption under Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines which states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. This grant funding will support capacity building activities, project planning, GIS mapping and project development. They are early-stage planning activities; no specific projects have yet been identified, nor have they been approved, adopted, or funded. There will be no ground or resource disturbance. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, the project would be statutorily exempt under CEQA Guidelines, section 15262 exempting feasibility and planning studies as the activity involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. (See also Pub. Resources Code, sec. 21102.) Further, there is no legally binding effect on later activities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project:
Yes ___ No ___

Signature:

Amy Pussier

Deputy Exec Officer

Title: _____

1/22/2026

Date: _____

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.